

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6005
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS PANAMA 1555

LONDON FOR US OBSERVER AT SUGAR COUNCIL

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PN
SUBJECT: PANAMA HOPES FOR SUGAR GSP CONSIDERATION

REF: TELCON WAGNER/ DANIELS 2/24

1. MR. RAUL DEL VALLE, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE "NACIONAL"
SUGAR CORPORATION, ONE OF PANAMA'S TWO PRIVATE SUGAR PRODUCERS,
VISITED THE EMBASSY TO URGE FURTHER U.S. CONSIDERATION TO GRANT-
ING PANAMA GSP FOR SUGAR.

2. DEL VALLE POINTED OUT THAT BRAZIL'S EXPORTS TO THE U.S.
IN 1977 EXCEEDED THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE FOR GSP-APPROVED
COUNTRIES OF ABOUT \$33.8 MILLION, AND THAT THEREFORE BRAZIL
WOULD NOT STATUTORILY BE ELIGIBLE FOR GSP IN 1978. ACCORDING TO
DEL VALLE'S INFORMATION THERE ARE SIX LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES
STATUTORILY ELIGIBLE IN 1978 BUT NOT CURRENTLY ENJOYING GSP,
NAMELY, COLOMBIA, EL SALVADOR, GUYANA, JAMAICA, NICARAGUA AND
PANAMA. DEL VALLE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE REASON, OR A PRIMARY
REASON, FOR THE U.S. REFUSAL LAST YEAR FOR
CONSIDERING EXTENDING GSP TO PANAMA AND OTHER STATUTORY
ELIGIBLES WAS THE U.S. RELUCTANCE TO HAVE TO CONSIDER
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THE AWKWARD AND OVERWHELMING CASE OF BRAZIL, A POTENTIAL
EXPORTER OF FAR GREATER QUANTITIES OF SUGAR THAN ANY
OF THE OTHERS.

3. ACCORDINGLY DEL VALLE HOPES THAT THE U.S. WILL IN
1978 FIND ITS WAY CLEAR TO GRANT PANAMA SUGAR GSP IN
ACCORDANCE WITH GENERAL GSP POLICY. HE POINTS OUT THAT

THT DUTY OF 2.81 CENTS PER POUND ON PANAMA'S CURRENT
ISA QUOTA OF 76,500 METRIC TONS (85 PERCENT OF 90,000 MT) WOULD
AMOUNO TO OVER \$4.7 MILLION, AND THAT THIS FIGURE WOULD
BE INCREASED BY ANOTHER \$3 MILLIMC IF THE ISA GRANTS PANAMA
THE ADDITIONAL 50,000 MT EXPORT QUOTA NOW BEING SOUGHT.

4. AT THE REQUEST OF MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE PAREDES
AND THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS GONZALEZ REVILLA,
DEL VALLE ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO PREPARED A MEMORANDUM CONTAIN-
ING THE STATISTICS CITED ABOVE FOR USE BY AMBASSADOR
LEWIS, WHO PLANNED SOON TO MEET WITH WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS--
E.G., MR. HAMILTON JORDAN-- AND BY NOW MAY ALREADY HAVE
DONE SO (COPY OF THIS MEMORANDUM POUCHED TO ARA/PAN TODAY).

5. EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT U.S. GIVE ALL POSSIBLE
CONSIDERATION TO GRANTING PANAMA SUGAR GSP FOR 1978. IF
THIS PROVES IMPOSSIBLE, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING
AN UNCLASSIFIED OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF U.S. SUGAR
POLICY REGARDING GSP FOR PANAMA WHICH WOULD BE SUIT-
ABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION TO PANAMANIAN SUGAR INTERESTS,
AS DISCUSSED REF TELCON AND PREVIOUS.

JORDEN

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Message Attributes

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